Religious Studies (REL STD)

Courses

REL STD 5A. World Religions I. 4 Units.
An introduction to the history, doctrine, culture, and writing of the three "religions of Abraham": Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

Same as HISTORY 16A.

(IV, VIII)

REL STD 5B. World Religions II. 4 Units.
An introduction to various religious traditions in selected areas of the world—including India and South Asia, East Asia, Africa, and the Americas.

Same as HISTORY 16B.

(IV, VIII)

REL STD 5C. Religious Dialogue. 4 Units.
Lectures and discussion on controversial topics in religion: sexual morality; religious violence; science; treatment of women and girls; religious truth, American Constitutional matters; secularization; the future of religion, and other topics.

Same as HISTORY 16C.

(IV, VIII)

REL STD 17. An Economic Approach to Religion. 4 Units.
Introduction to how basic economic concepts such as demand, supply, consumption, production, competition, free-riding, innovation, regulation, and rent-seeking can be applied to understand observed religious behavior.

Same as ECON 17.

(III)

REL STD 21. Philosophy and Religion. 4 Units.
Examines the intersection of religion and philosophy from a standpoint that does not presuppose previous academic study of either. Both Western and Eastern traditions and perspectives may be explored.

Repeatability: May be taken for credit 3 times as topics vary.

REL STD 56. Society and Religion. 4 Units.
A critical and personal examination of the varieties of religious and spiritual experience human beings are undergoing in contemporary society. The role of conscious understanding and unconscious conditioning regarding religion and spirituality.

Repeatability: May be taken for credit 3 times as topics vary.

REL STD 60. Gender and Religion. 4 Units.
A presentation in selected issues in the study of gender and religion.

Repeatability: May be taken for credit 3 times as topics vary.

(III, VIII)

REL STD 90. Aspects of Religion. 4 Units.
A presentation of selected issues in the study of religion.

Repeatability: May be taken for credit 3 times as topics vary.

(IV)

REL STD 91. Aspects of Asian Religions. 4 Units.
A survey course of a specific Asian religious tradition such as Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism, or Shinto in its manifestation in Asia or in its transmission to the Americas.

Repeatability: May be taken for credit 3 times as topics vary.
REL STD 100. Topics in the Study of Religion. 4 Units.
The intersection of religious belief and practices with selected subjects of continuing interest.

Repeatability: May be taken for credit 3 times as topics vary.

REL STD 103. Topics in the Philosophy of Religion. 4 Units.
Critical examination of philosophical concepts in religious scripture and theology, e.g., the nature and existence of God, miracles, the problem of evil, divine command theories in ethics. May include both Eastern and Western religious traditions.

Repeatability: May be taken for credit 3 times as topics vary.

REL STD 106. Topics in Gender and Religion. 4 Units.
Critical examination of how religious beliefs and practices have shaped (and been shaped by) attitudes toward gender and sexuality in modern and/or premodern society.

Repeatability: May be taken for credit 3 times as topics vary.

REL STD 110. Thinking about Religion: Theories and Methodologies. 4 Units.
A survey and investigation of the major thinkers, theories, and methodologies in the study of religions. Designed to develop the student's ability to analyze and articulate theoretical arguments; includes a paper on relevant Religious Studies topics.

Prerequisite: REL STD 5A and REL STD 5B and REL STD 5C.

Restriction: Religious Studies Majors only.

REL STD 112B. Science and Religion II. 4 Units.
The development of genomics, stem-cell research, robotics, nanotechnology, neuropharmacology raises difficult religious and philosophical questions. Examines interdisciplinary approaches that cut across institutional boundaries, cultural borders, religious traditions. Focuses on relationship between religion and cognitive/affective/social neuroscience. Course may be offered online.

Same as SOC SCI 130B, PSYCH 172S, LPS 140B.

REL STD 115. Religion and World Politics. 4 Units.
Examines the relationship between religion and world politics historically and today, focusing on connections with peace/war, democracy, human rights, secularism(s), and globalization. Covers major debates, scholarship, concepts, and theories through class exercises, exams, and essays.

Prerequisite: POL SCI 41A or INTL ST 11 or INTL ST 12 or REL STD 5A or REL STD 5B or REL STD 5C.

Same as POL SCI 146B, INTL ST 151B.

REL STD 120. Asian Religious Traditions. 4 Units.
Studies involving (but not limited to) Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Shinto and Shamanism, including both elite and doctrinal aspects and forms of more popular religiosity.

Repeatability: May be taken for credit 3 times as topics vary.

REL STD 130. Jewish, Islamic, and Middle Eastern Religious Traditions. 4 Units.
Character and evolution of Egyptian, Jewish, Zoroastrian, Muslim, and other religious communities of the region from their formative periods to the present era.

Repeatability: May be taken for credit 3 times as topics vary.

REL STD 131A. History of Zoroastrianism. 4 Units.
Reviews major trends in the history of Zoroastrianism.

Same as HISTORY 131A.

REL STD 140. Early Western Religious Traditions. 4 Units.
Religious perspectives of the Mediterranean and European regions from the earliest times to approximately 1500 C.E.

Repeatability: May be taken for credit 3 times as topics vary.

REL STD 141. Recent Western Religious Traditions. 4 Units.
Studies related to Catholic, Protestant, and Orthodox Christianity as well as alternative belief systems in Europe of the early modern and modern eras.

Repeatability: May be taken for credit 3 times as topics vary.
REL STD 150. Religion in the Americas. 4 Units.
Religious belief and social context in North and South America from the earliest human societies to the present.
Repeatability: May be taken for credit 3 times as topics vary.

REL STD 160. Diaspora Religions. 4 Units.
Examination of what happens to belief and practice as religious communities are scattered geographically.
Repeatability: May be taken for credit 3 times as topics vary.

REL STD 170. Comparative Studies in Religion. 4 Units.
Systematic comparisons of different religious and quasi-religious traditions, their beliefs and practices.
Repeatability: May be taken for credit 3 times as topics vary.

REL STD 190. Senior Colloquium. 4 Units.
Reading and group discussion of selected texts under the direction of an instructor. Paper required.
Repeatability: May be taken for credit 3 times as topics vary.
Restriction: A minimum of two students must enroll.

REL STD 199. Independent Study. 1-4 Units.
Directed reading and research in consultation with a faculty member. Substantial written work required.
Repeatability: Unlimited as topics vary.
Restriction: Upper-division students only.